THE LAND ACQUISITION REGULATION AMENDMENT BILL.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Sir, I beg to move that the Land Acquisition Regulation Amendment Bill be taken up for final reading and passed.

MR R. NILAKANDA PILLAI (*Ag. Financial Secretary to Government*): I beg to second the motion.

PRESIDENT: May I take it that the motion is carried?

The motion was carried.

THE REFORMATORY SCHOOLS BILL.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Sir, I beg to present the report of the Select Committee on the Reformatories Regulation Amendment Bill. At the time the Bill was introduced, Mr. Madhava Variar suggested that the juvenile offenders should not be tried along with other criminals. The Select Committee considered the question and have made an amendment to the effect that, except in cases where a youthful offender has to be tried along with other criminals in the same case, such offender may be tried on different dates or at different times by a Magistrate. It is also open to the Government to constitute juvenile courts if they think fit to do so. In the absence of such courts, the magistrates will, as far as possible, try youthful offenders on separate days or separate hours not allotted to the trial of ordinary criminals. This important modification has been made. The other amendments are purely verbal, and I beg to move that the Bill be taken into consideration now.

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): I beg to second the motion.

PRESIDENT: I take it that the Council accepts the motion.

The motion was carried.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Sir, no notice of any amendment has been received; and, unless the President thinks so, it is not necessary to go into the Bill, clause by clause.

PRESIDENT: There is no notice of any amendment with respect to the Bill; and I do not think it therefore necessary to go into the Bill, clause by clause. I take it that the Council accepts the Bill as amended by the Select Committee.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Then I beg to move that the Bill be taken up for final reading on a future day of which notice will be given.

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): I beg to second the motion.

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[Mr. V. Subba Aiyar.]

PRESIDENT: I take it that the Council accepts the motion.
The motion was carried.

THE VILLAGE PANCHAYATS BILL.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Sir, I beg to introduce the Village Panchayats Bill. The Bill has been published with the permission of the Dewan; and it is therefore not necessary to move for leave to introduce it. I therefore beg to move that the Bill be read in Council.

MR. R. NILAKANDA PILLAI (*Ag. Financial Secretary to Government*): I beg to second the motion.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): I may now explain the general principles and the scope of the Bill. Everywhere the cry has been that there should be an increased association of the people in the work of administration, and it is with that view that a scheme of local self-government has been started. So far as Travancore is concerned, we have it in the urban areas and that has been in existence for the last twenty-five years. But no attempt has yet been made to introduce it in the rural areas. The urgent necessity for its extension to rural areas will be evident from the following extract from the Government of India's Resolution of 1918 on Local Self-Government:—

"The domain of urban and rural self-government was the great training ground from which political progress and a sense of responsibility have taken their start and it was felt that the time has come to quicken the advance, to accelerate the rate of progress and thus to stimulate the sense of responsibility in the average citizen and to enlarge his experience."

In accordance with this pronouncement, village panchayats have been established in British India in the various provinces and also in other Indian States. So far as Travancore is concerned, the people here have not been backward. In other words, there has not been any want of agitation in this particular matter. We find that, so early as 1912, Mr. P. Kesava Pillai, the Quilon Member of the Assembly, said:

"There were many things in the village to be attended to, such as the maintenance of village roads, etc. Therefore administrative powers should be given to village panchayats."

In other words, he advocated the constitution of administrative village panchayats.

Later on, in 1914 the Member for Tiruvalla, Ramavarmaru Godavarmaru Koviladhikarikal, said:

"The maintenance of village roads, lanes and water courses, the improvement of agriculture, primary education, village sanitation and hygiene were some of the matters that could be safely entrusted to the Boards".

So we see that he also advocated the same thing. In 1915, we find Mr. A. Govinda Menon suggesting the extension of the sphere of local self-government by the constitution of District, Taluk and Village Boards. He said:

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